

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 5/2/98
- 6
1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving from a user an input selecting a layer in an electronic artwork having a plurality of layers, ~~the selected layer having content including one or more non-transparent regions in a transparent frame;~~  
in response to the input selecting a layer, identifying one or more regions in the selected layer as non-transparent regions in a transparent frame;  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ defining an area in the selected layer ~~by automatically determining based on a~~ perimeter boundary of the one or more non-transparent regions in the selected layer;  
assigning an action to the area, the action defining a function that is to be activated when the area is selected; and  
associating the area and the action with the selected layer as a property of the selected layer in the electronic artwork.
  2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the action is a URL (Uniform Resource Locator).
  3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
compositing the layers of the artwork; and  
converting the area and the action to a target output format.
  4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein:  
the target output format is HTML (HyperText Markup Language).
  5. (Currently Amended) A computer program, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions for causing a computer to:  
receive an electronic artwork having a plurality of layers, ~~each layer having transparency~~

~~information defining one or more non-transparent regions in the layer in a transparent frame;~~

receive from a user an input selecting one of the plurality of layers;

in response to the input selecting a layer, identify one or more regions in the selected layer as non-transparent regions in a transparent frame;

define an area in the selected layer by automatically determining based on a perimeter boundary of the one or more non-transparent regions in the selected layer; and

assign an action to the area, the action defining a function that will be activated when the area is selected.

6. (Previously Amended) The computer program of claim 5, further comprising instructions to:

automatically fit a shape to the perimeter boundary, wherein the shape defines the area.

7. (Original) The computer program of claim 5, further comprising instructions to:  
composite the layers of the artwork; and  
convert the area and the action to a target output format.

8. (Original) The computer program of claim 7, wherein the target output format for the area and the action is HTML.

9. (Original) The computer program of claim 8, further comprising instructions to:  
write out the composited artwork as an image file and write out an HTML file containing an image map for the area and a URL for the action, the HTML file referring to the image file.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
re-defining the area automatically if the content of the selected layer of the electronic artwork is edited to conform to a new perimeter boundary of the one or more non-transparent regions.

13. (Previously Amended) In a graphics application that supports dynamic content in layers, the method of claim 1, further comprising:

calculating any dynamic content for the selected layer before the area is defined.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the selected layer has two or more non-contiguous non-transparent regions in a transparent frame; and

the area is defined ~~by automatically determining~~ based on a perimeter boundary of the non-transparent regions in combination.

16. (Previously Added) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

generating multiple image maps from the non-transparent regions.

20. (Previously Added) The computer program of claim 5, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

associate the area and the action with the selected layer as a property of the selected layer.

21. (Previously Amended) The computer program of claim 20, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

re-define the area automatically if the content of the selected layer of the electronic artwork is edited to conform to a new perimeter boundary of the one or more non-transparent regions.

22. (Previously Amended) The computer program of claim 5, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

calculate any dynamic content for the selected layer before the area is defined.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 5, wherein:

the layer has two or more non-contiguous non-transparent regions in a transparent frame;

and

the area is defined by ~~automatically determining~~ based on a perimeter boundary of the non-transparent regions in combination.

25. (Previously Added) The computer program of claim 24, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

generate multiple image maps from the non-transparent regions.

28. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

defining the area further comprises automatically fitting a shape to the perimeter boundary, wherein the shape defines the area.

29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

outputting the composited artwork as an image file; and

outputting an HTML file including an image map for the area and a URL for the action.

30. (Previously Added) The computer program of claim 5, wherein the action is a URL (Uniform Resource Locator).

31. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

receiving user input selecting the shape.

32. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, wherein the shape is a circle.

33. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, wherein the shape is a rectangle.

34. (Previously Added) The method of claim 28, wherein the shape is a polygon.

35. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, wherein the perimeter boundary is for the one or more non-transparent regions in combination.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the content of~~ the selected layer includes one or more holes formed between the one or more non-transparent regions; and wherein holes included within the perimeter boundary are included in the area.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the content of~~ the selected layer includes one or more holes formed between the one or more non-transparent regions; and wherein defining an area ~~includes automatically determining is based on~~ one or more separate perimeter boundaries for the one or more non-transparent regions, such that the holes are not included within the separate perimeter boundaries.

38. (Previously Added) The computer program of claim 6, further comprising instructions to:  
receive user input selecting a shape.

39. (Previously Added) The method of claim 38, wherein the shape is a circle.

40. (Previously Added) The method of claim 38, wherein the shape is a rectangle.

41. (Previously Added) The method of claim 38, wherein the shape is a polygon.

42. (Previously Added) The computer program of claim 5, wherein the perimeter boundary is for the one or more non-transparent regions in combination.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 5, wherein ~~the content of~~ the selected layer includes one or more holes formed between the one or more non-transparent regions; and  
wherein holes included within the perimeter boundary are included in the area.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 5, wherein ~~the content of~~ the

selected layer includes one or more holes formed between the one or more non-transparent regions; and

wherein defining an area ~~includes automatically determining~~ is based on one or more separate perimeter boundaries for the one or more non-transparent regions, such that the holes are not included within the separate perimeter boundaries.

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying one or more regions in the selected area as non-transparent regions in a transparent frame includes automatically determining a perimeter boundary for the one or more non-transparent regions.

46. (New) The computer program of claim 5, wherein instructions for causing a computer to identify one or more regions in the selected layer as non-transparent regions in a transparent frame include instructions to automatically determine a perimeter boundary for the one or more non-transparent regions.

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